

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00573 060947Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /068 W

-----061047Z 081236 /13

R 060908Z APR 77

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4367

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS MORG IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI MILITARY SEEKS TO MODERNIZE ITS AIRCRAFT AND
ITS INTERNAL STRUCTURE

1. LONG-STANDING RUMORS AMONG BAGHDAD'S DIPLOMATS CONCERNING
IRAQI PURCHASES OF WESTERN MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SOVIET
DISENCHANTMENT, AND THE REORGANIZATION OF THE IRAQI MILITARY
HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN ON NEW LIFE. ALTHOUGH THE IRAQIS HAD
EARLIER NEGOTIATED FOR THE PURCHASE OF MIRAGES, THERE ARE
NOW STRONG INDICATIONS OF IRAQI INTEREST IN THE BRITISH
JAGUAR. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT IRAQI TECHNICAL AND
CONTRACT COMMITTEES HAVE APPROVED THE PURCHASE OF THE
JAGUAR AND THAT AGREEMENT ON PILOT TRAINING HAS BEEN
REACHED. AS WITH THE MIRAGE, PRICE IS REPORTEDLY THE MAJOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00573 060947Z

REMAINING HURDLE.

2. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD REPORTS OF IRAQI DISCONTENT WITH
SOVIET PRESSURE AND RELUCTANCE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENTLY
SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, ESPECIALLY THE MIG-25. THE
INDIANS, WHO ASSIST IRAQ WITH ITS MIG-23'S, BELIEVE
THAT THE IRAQIS ARE EMPLOYING THE BOGEY OF WESTERN

AIRCRAFT PURCHASES TO ENCOURAGE A MORE REASONABLE
SOVIET APPROACH ON PRICE AND QUALITY OF ARMS SUPPLIES.

3. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT THE IRAQIS HAVE BEEN
CONSIDERING A MAJOR REORGANIZATION OF THEIR MILITARY.
THE BASIC IDEA IS TO CREATE A SMALLER, MORE TECHNICALLY
COMPETENT AND MORE IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED MILITARY
FORCE BY ELIMINATING THE DRAFT FOR SHIA PEASANTS, REMOVING
UNRELIABLE SHIA OFFICERS, AND PERHAPS ENCOURAGING MEMBERS
OF THE BAATH PARTY AND THE PEOPLE'S ARMY TO ENLIST IN
THE IRAQI ARMY. SUCH A REORGANIZATION WOULD ALSO PROVIDE
A SUITABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE RAPID PROMOTION OF MILITARY
OFFICERS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY.

4. AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THE TREND IS IN THE OPPOSITE
DIRECTION AS THE MILITARY PREPARES FOR MOPPING UP OPERA-
TIONS IN THE KURDISH AREA. DRAFTEES HAVE BEEN RETAINED
BEYOND THEIR ORIGINAL SERVICE EXPIRATION DATES, NEW
OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED TO SERVE AN EXTRA YEAR, AND SENIOR
SUNNI NCOS AND JUNIOR OFFICERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED
TO REMAIN WITH THE MILITARY. ONLY SOME SHIA OFFICERS
HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN REMOVED AND THEN USUALLY TO LESS
SENSITIVE POSTS RATHER THAN FROM THE MILITARY ITSELF.

5. PERSONAL RIVALRIES BETWEEN IZZAT IBRAHIM, KAMAL
YASIN, AND ADNAN KHEIRALLA, PICKED BY SEVERAL MILITARY
ATTACHES AS THE NEXT DEFENSE MINISTER, PROBABLY EXACERBATE
INTERNAL DIFFERENCES REGARDING THE FUNCTION AND STRUCTURE
OF THE IRAQI MILITARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00573 060947Z

6. COMMENT: SEVERAL SENIOR IRAQI OFFICERS ARE
KNOWN TO CHAMPION A DIVERSIFICATION OF IRAQ'S ARMS SUPPLIERS.
BUT SOVIET READINESS TO ENHANCE IRAQ'S DEFENSE CAPABILITY,
POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, AND THE GOI'S FINANCIAL CONSERVA-
TISM SUGGEST THAT IRAQ WILL CONTINUE TO RELY ON SOVIET
MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THE REACTIVATION OF THE MIRAGE
AND JAGUAR SALES POSSIBILITIES MAY BE AN ATTEMPT TO
PRESSURE THE SOVIETS TO DELIVER MIG-25'S OR TO ASSIST WITH
THE CREATION OF A NATIVE ARMS INDUSTRY.

7. A SMALLER, MORE IDEOLOGICALLY COMMITTED MILITARY
ALSO POSES SEVERAL PROBLEMS FOR THE DOMINANT CIVILIAN
WING OF THE BAATH PARTY. EXTRAORDINARILY SENSITIVE
TO ANY SIGN OF INTERNAL DISSIDENCE, THE REGIME NEEDS THE
SHIA PEASANT SOLDIERS TO MAINTAIN AN EXTENSIVE BLANKET
OF OCCUPATION IN THE KURDISH MOUNTAINS. FURTHERMORE, A
MORE TIGHTLY KNIT BAATHI ARMY MIGHT PRODUCE INDIVIDUALS
ABLE AND WILLING TO CHALLENGE THE CIVILIAN PARTY FUNCTION-

ARIES, INCLUDING SADDAM HUSSEIN, WHO ARE NOW IN DOMINANT
POSITIONS.
WILEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL MILITARY RELATIONS, ARMED FORCES, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BAGHDA00573
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770119-1035
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770484/aaaacvbw.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 842d54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2887193
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IRAQI MILITARY SEEKS TO MODERNIZE ITS AIRCRAFT AND ITS INTERNAL STRUCTURE
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MORG, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/842d54a9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009